

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 162044
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 L-03 SIG-03 CIAE-00 INR-10
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DRAFTED BY AF/I:LTCOL WRCARROLL:PCS
APPROVED BY AF/I:WHLEWIS
DOD:COL PARKER (SUBSTANCE)
COAST GUARD:CDR J.COSTELLO
PM:PSCHLAMM
AF/E:SHAMRICK
AF/C:WSWING
AF/S:LMACFARLANE
L:NELY

-----047096 270527Z /14

R 261918Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
INFO COAST GUARD WASHDC 0362
SECDEF WASHDC 0590

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EAIR

SUBJECT: OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM

1. IN DECEMBER 1976 THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED THE US
COAST GUARD TO CONCLUDE A SERIES OF AGREEMENTS WITH
FOREIGN AGENCIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING MONITORING
STATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM.
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THE OMEGA SYSTEM IS A SHORE-BASED ELECTRONIC AID TO
NAVIGATION THAT USES MEASURED SIGNAL PHASE DIFFERENCES
FROM PAIRS OF TRANSMITTING STATIONS FOR FIXING POSITION OF
VESSELS. EIGHT VERY LOW FREQUENCY (VLF) TRANSMITTERS
ARE IN OPERATION, TWO OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE US AND
ONE IS LOCATED IN LIBERIA. UPON COMPLETION, THE OMEGA
SYSTEM WILL ALSO INCLUDE A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF SOME 60

MONITORING STATIONS FOR COLLECTING OMEGA SYSTEM DATA FOR CORRECTING PROPAGATION OF THE VLF SIGNAL FROM THE TRANSMITTERS.

2. ON BASIS OF PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, ADDRESSEE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY COAST GUARD AS BEST LOCATIONS FOR THE REQUIRED MONITORING STATIONS IN AFRICA. PROPOSED SITE LOCATIONS WOULD BE IN CAPITAL CITIES IN ALL CASES EXCEPT KENYA, WHERE MOMBASA IS PROPOSED AS SITE LOCATION.

3. HOST AGENCIES CAN BE EITHER GOVERNMENTAL OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL, LOCAL UNIVERSITIES, LABORATORIES, OBSERVATORIES OR TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITIES ARE EXAMPLES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ACCEPTABLE SITES. IN ADDITION TO THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES THE ACCEPTANCE OF A SITE WOULD DEMONSTRATE HOST COUNTRIES' PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THIS WORLD-WIDE AIR/SEA NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

4. WHILE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION, THE AGREEMENT WHICH THE COAST GUARD WISHES TO ENTER INTO ENVISAGES THAT THE COAST GUARD WOULD PROVIDE ALL THE EQUIPMENT (A PORTABLE, SOLID-STATE MONITOR AND ACCESSORIES) AND SPARE PARTS, ASSISTANCE IN INSTALLING THE MONITOR AND ANY MAJOR REPAIRS. (THE COAST GUARD WOULD RETAIN TITLE TO THE EQUIPMENT.) THE HOST AGENCY WOULD PROVIDE A MONITOR STATION LOCATION, ELECTRIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POWER, AND PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THE EQUIPMENT AND PERFORM ROUTINE SERVICING.

5. THE HOST AGENCY WOULD AGREE TO PROCESS THE DATA RECEIVED AT THE MONITOR STATIONS AND PERIODICALLY FORWARD THE ORIGINAL RECORDINGS TO THE COAST GUARD. THERE WOULD BE NO RESTRICTION ON THE USE OR DISSEMINATION OF THE BASIC DATA COLLECTED BY THOSE AGENCIES.

6. DEPARTMENT WILL POUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PACKAGE ON OMEGA INCLUDING SAMPLE AGREEMENT.

7. UPON REVIEW OF MATERIAL BEING POUCHED REQUEST EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AS TO SUITABLE HOST, LIKELY REACTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PROPOSED AGREEMENT AND BEST METHOD OF INITIATING DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCY. VANCE

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